

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Dessau-Rosslau

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1. On 16 March 1952, the barracks installation Rosslau in Dessau-Rosslau (N 52/E 17) quartered about 3,000 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia. There was intensive training activity on the barracks yard and the former German engineer demolition training site from 10 to 18 March. On 10 March, about 300 troops equipped with carbines and entrenching tools received field training at platoon level. A radio section was with each platoon. Five JS-3 tanks practiced attacking at the engineer demolition training site. About 30 soldiers who arrived on trucks [redacted] were engaged in gun drill with four model 81S-3 76.2-mm field guns along the road to Meinsdorf. On 14 March, about 1,500 troops conducted a large-scale field exercise in the woods southwest of Luko. About 220 troops organized into four groups equipped with light machine guns, submachine guns, entrenching tools and portable radio sets marched into the barracks installation on 18 March. [redacted]

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2. On 20 March, the hutment in Gross Kuehnau, west of Dessau, was occupied by 800 to 1,000 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. New garages were noticed at the hutment. About 350 troops equipped with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns were engaged in field training in the adjacent terrain on 5 March. Several T-34/85 tanks and trucks, [redacted] were unloaded at the Dessau freight station in the morning of 11 March and moved to the hutment in Gross Kuehnau. [redacted]

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3. Trucks unloaded at the Dessau freight station on 7 March [redacted]

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The trucks departed at about 1 p.m. toward the road to Leipzig (N 52/E 21). **
On 10 March, about 130 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer

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insignia were bivouacked in three large tents on the east bank of the Elbe River, 1,500 to 1,800 meters south of the Elbe River bridge. The troops constructed bridges over the Elbe River at this camping site on 18 March.

On 15 March, the hutment in Gross Kuehnau west of Dessau quartered about 2,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epauletts. Trucks, T-34/85 tanks, 122-mm field howitzers and 120-mm mortars were seen in the garages. Units up to company strength were engaged in combat practice on the adjacent drill grounds. A clearing was cut into the woods between Gross Kuehnau and Klein Kuehnau for the construction of a road to by pass these villages when going to or coming from the Kuehnau-Minkel training area.

On 15 March, troops drilled at the AT guns emplaced near the ration supply office in Dessau. Some of the crews departed on trucks toward the barracks installation in Dessau-Rosslau. *

On 18 March, the Rosslau engineer training site was established between kilometer markers 256 and 257 along the Elbe River. One or 2 companies of soldiers, 1 motorboat car and 2 trucks were seen there. On 23, 25 and 27 March, the Elbe River was blocked from kilometer markers 265 to 270 between Brambach and Rietzneck from noon to 8 p.m. ***

On 9 March, the hutment in Gross Kuehnau west of Dessau quartered 300 to 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epauletts with tank insignia. No training activity or vehicular traffic were noticed. * In early March, source determined that the Jahnstrasse in Dessau had to be vacated by the civilian population. Source further learned that a Soviet office from Halle (H 52/D 92), which allegedly belonged to the komendatura, was to move into the vacated buildings.

* Comment. The majority of the 7th Gds Tank Div is carried in the barracks installation, Rosslau, and in the hutment in Gross Kuehnau. No information has hitherto been obtained as to whether and which units are still stationed outside of Dessau-Rosslau.

** Comment. The trucks unloaded belong to headquarters signal troops of the Second Gds Tank Army, which were probably scheduled to participate in the command post exercise in the Thuringian area. The trains which carried the trucks were reported by another source to have gone from Fuerstentberg to Dessau with on 7 March 1952.

*** Comment. The engineer training site southeast of Rosslau and the engineer training grounds between Brambach and Rietzneck are known from reports of 1951.

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